

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Claims 1-11 and 14-22 remain pending in this application, wherein claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, and 16-18 are hereby amended.

Applicant would first like to thank Examiner Shechtman for her time and courtesy during the telephone interview conducted with Applicant's representative on January 8, 2010. The following records the substance of the interview.

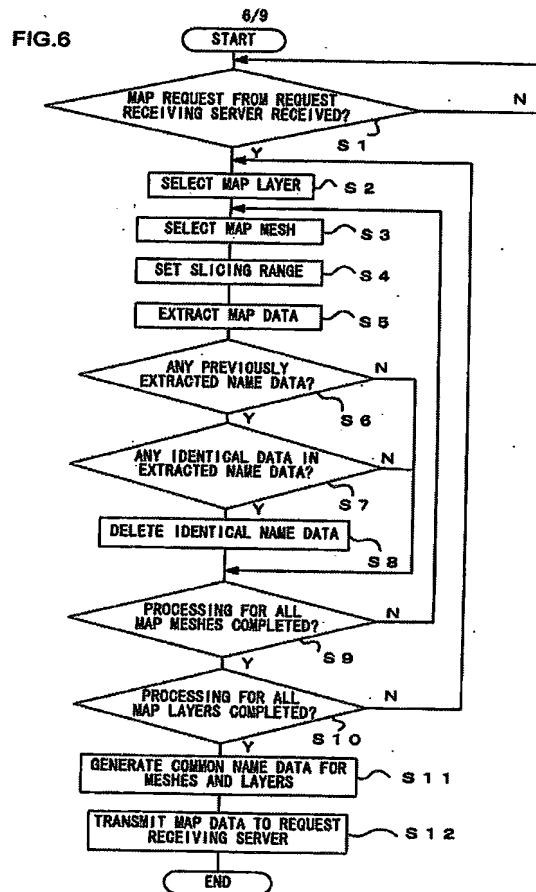
The Office Action rejects claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enable requirement. In particular, the Office Action states that Applicants' disclosure "does not reasonably provide enablement for a single road in common with the map area blocks."

Applicants submit that their disclosure is enabling for the feature cited in the Office's rejection, as required by the enablement requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. In the interest of expediting prosecution, however, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 3, and 6, as discussed during the interview. The Examiner agreed that the amendments to claim 1, 3, and 6, would overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Claims 1-11 and 14-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent Number 6,320,518 issued to Saeki et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the interview, Applicants disclose systems and methods related to the distribution of map data used to display a map at an

information terminal such as a navigation system installed in a vehicle. Figure 6, reproduced below illustrates features of an exemplary method in accordance with Applicants' invention.



As can be appreciated from Figure 6, in Applicants' disclosed method, common name data is generated for the meshes and layers of a requested map (step S11). The common name data is generated by extracting the map data for meshes and layers (step S3) and deleting identical name data (step S8) to leave a single set name of data for use by all of the meshes and all of the layers of the requested map data.

Turning now to the claims, independent claim 1 recites distribution map data that includes, *inter alia*, the following features:

(1) road data in correspondence to each of a plurality of map area blocks, the map area blocks ranging over individual areas of the map which are equal to one another in size, wherein the road data provides position information indicating positions of roads within the individual map area blocks.

(2) integrated name data that provides common name information for a road such that the integrated map data provides a single set of name data for the road for use among the individual map area blocks.

In the rejection of claim 1, the Office Action cites to Saeki's disclosure of "figure parts" as disclosing the plurality of map area blocks recited in Applicant's claim 1.

Further, in the "Response to Argument" section of the Office Action, the Office cites Saeki for disclosing that the map data is divided into figure parts and that the "the figure parts of the map data are portions of the divided map and are therefore map area blocks (emphasis added)."

Regarding the "figure parts", however, Saeki actually states the following:

Here, the part means a figure showing each road or each facilities which constitute the map data. For example, the map data shown in FIG. 9, national roads A6, A7, traffic lights B1 through B3, parking lots B6 through B8, building facilities B9, B10, and so on are called the parts.¹

In other words, Saeki merely discloses figure parts that are roads or facilities making up map data.

¹ Column 8, lines 27-31.

In contrast, Applicant's claim 1 requires that the map area blocks range "over individual areas of the map which are equal to one another in size."

Applicants' disclosure describes map area blocks consistently with the language in claim 1 stating, "the term 'map mesh' in this context refers to a block of map data obtained by dividing the map data in the particular map layer into area blocks ranging over areas, the sizes of which are equal to one another."²

Saeki's disclosure of figure parts that are roads or facilities does not disclose or suggest the map area blocks or road name data in correspondence to each of a plurality of map area blocks as recited in claim 1. Applicants submit that Saeki does not anticipate claim 1 for at least this reason.

Independent claim 3 recites a method that includes, *inter alia*, the following steps:

(1) extracting road data and name data over map area blocks to indicate a route passing through the map area blocks, from road map data that provides position information indicating positions of roads in each of the map area blocks and that provides name information indicating names in each of the roads in the map area blocks.

(2) generating integrated name data by integrating name information for a single road in the extracted name data, so as to provide common name information, such that the integrated name data provides a single set of name data for the road in for use among the individual map area blocks.

² Page 12, lines 8-12.

(3) generating the distribution map data by using the extracted road data and the integrated name data.

Claim 3 requires a map area block feature similar to the map area block feature recited in claim 1 and discussed above. Applicant submits that claim 3 is patentably distinguishable over claim Saeki at least for the reasons given above for claim 1.

Further, claim 3 is a method claim that explicitly requires, *inter alia*, generating the distribution map data by integrating on the basis of map area blocks, extracted road data that contains individual road name information for each road in each map area block.

As discussed above, Saeki does not disclose road name data provided for individual map area blocks. Accordingly, Saeki does not disclose or suggest the extracting or integrating steps that operate on name data for map area blocks. Saeki merely discloses extracting data for map parts that match a priority setting along a route. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Saeki does not anticipate or make obvious claim 3 for at least this additional reason.

Independent claims 6 recites an apparatus that includes, *inter alia*, an extraction device, an integrating device, and a generating device that provide functionality similar to that recited in the method features discussed above regarding claim 3. Applicants submit that Saeki does not anticipate claims 6 for reasons similar to those given above for claim 3.

Saeki does not anticipate dependent claims 2, 4, 5, and 7-11, and 14-22, at least by virtue of the respective dependencies of these dependent claims from independent claims 1, 3, or 6.

Further, claim 2 requires that the distribution map data further include road data in each of a plurality of map layers set in correspondence to different specific scaling factors, the scaling factors having been set in accordance with ratios of distances between points as represented on the corresponding map layer and the actual distances between the points.

In the rejection of claim 2, the Office Action cites to Saeki's disclosure of priority settings as disclosing the map layer scaling factors recited in the claim. As discussed during the interview, however, scaling factors as recited in Applicant's claims, and as disclosed in Applicant's specification, refer to the geometric ratios used to scale distances for representation on a map layer. During the interview, the Examiner agreed that Saeki did not disclose or suggest map layers set in correspondence to geometric scaling factors. Applicants have amended the claims to clarify the meaning of scaling factors in the claims. Applicants submit that Saeki does not anticipate claim 2 for at least this additional reason.

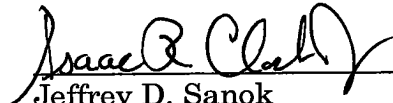
Claims 4 and 7 recite features similar to the features discussed above regarding claim 2. Claims 14, 15, and 16 depend directly or indirectly from claims 4 and 7. Applicants respectfully submit that Saeki does not anticipate claims 4, 7, and 14-16 for reasons similar to those discussed above regarding claim 2.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 029267.56097US).

Respectfully submitted,

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